

**TO: Chairman and Members**

**DATE: September 9, 2010**

**SUBJECT: Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility  
Update on Crowding**

**AGENDA ITEM: 2**

**ACTION: X  
INFORMATION:**

**RESOURCE PERSON: Field Representative, Toni Gardner**

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**Summary:**

This action item is a report on the status of crowding at Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility (YDF). The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is mandated under Section 209(e), Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to determine the “suitability” of California juvenile halls when there are areas of noncompliance related to crowded conditions. CSA staff has closely monitored the crowding and totality of conditions at the Sacramento County Juvenile Hall since January 2000.

**Background:**

On March 8, 2007, the CSA Board considered the matter of the suitability of Sacramento County Juvenile Hall based on crowding and the totality of conditions documented during a site visit on December 22, 2006. The Board requested that Sacramento County update their previous suitability plan (SP) to include a description of all measures the county would take to maintain the juvenile hall population below the SP population limits. A determination of suitability was continued to the May 10, 2007 CSA meeting at which time the Board found that the juvenile hall was a suitable place for the confinement of minors. The Board required the county to conform to the agreed upon suitability plan elements from the plan dated April 24, 2007. The county was to submit monthly population data for each living unit in the juvenile hall and a representative of the probation department was to present progress reports at each CSA Board meeting. On September 13, 2007, after several positive reports, the Board asked that the reports be presented every six months. The county has reported at that interval since and their last appearance before this Board was March 11, 2010.

An overview of the facility population is provided in Attachment A. In addition to reviewing the monthly population reports, CSA staff conducted the biennial inspection of Sacramento County’s Youth Detention Facility (YDF) on March 23, 2010 and visited again on August 12, 2010 to assess compliance with the suitability plan and totality of conditions at the facility. The results of that visit were summarized in the August 13, 2010 letter to Chief Don L. Meyer (Attachment B).

Since September 2007, Sacramento County has maintained the population of each unit at YDF below the limits specified in the April 2007 suitability plan. More significantly, since May of 2008, each unit has been at or below rated capacity. In spite of the closure of the Warren E. Thornton Youth Center (June 2009), the closure of the Sacramento Boys Ranch (June 2010) and the termination of the contract to house minors in Yolo County (June 2010), YDF has not experienced crowded conditions. Chief Meyer reports that measures put into place to prevent crowding have been more effective than anticipated and is confident that the facility will be able maintain the population of YDF below rated capacity. Chief Meyer and CSA staff request that no further updates be required of Sacramento County. If future crowding was to occur, the county would be

required to follow the procedures for reporting occurrences of crowding outlined on the CSA website:

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/FSO/Docs/Form\\_Juvenile\\_crowding\\_assessment\\_10\\_final.doc](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/FSO/Docs/Form_Juvenile_crowding_assessment_10_final.doc)

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**Recommendation/Action Needed:** That no future crowding updates be required of Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility, relating to the May 10, 2007 Board action in finding the county suitable for the confinement of minors.